

REVENGE of LIBRARIANS  
**741.5**

CARTOONS by TOM GAULD

**WEIRD, WILD & WARPED:**

# DECORUM

BY HICKMAN + HUDDLESTON

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COMIC OF 2022

**JANUARY 2023 NO. 87**



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



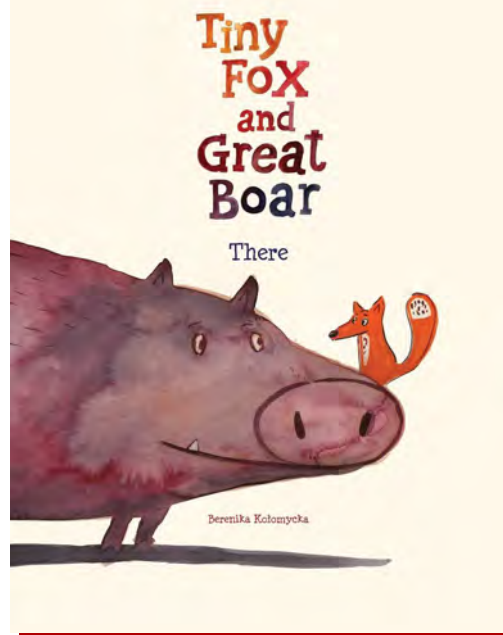
Lexington Public Library  
*Reading Is Just the Beginning!*



The shelves dedicated to NEW comics for youngsters is stuffed to bursting with quality work, series like Big Nate, Goddess Girls, Narwhal & Jelly as well as comps of modern classics like the fifth Elephant & Piggie BIGGIE!



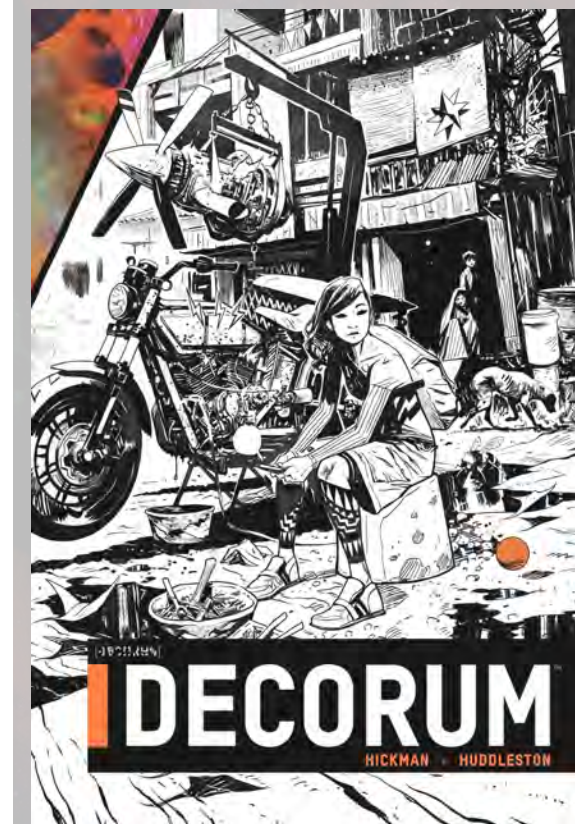
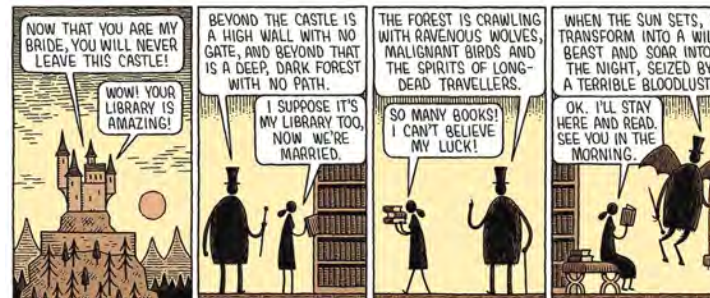
But my favorite kiddie comic of 2022 has to be *Tiny Fox and Great Boar: There* by Polish artist Berenika Kotomycka. This charming book for little ones follows the pair of woodland pals as their friendship develops in chapters rendered in child-like but knowing watercolors. Go to [lexpublib.org/](http://lexpublib.org/)



THRILLER CONCEPT GENERATOR - Choose one option from each set

MURDEROUS			PURSUE	AN INNOCENT		
POWERFUL	COPS	GHOSTS		A SASSY	BRIDE	LAWYER
MUTATED				A RUNAWAY		
DERANGED	CRIMINALS	BIRDS		AN AMNESIAC	GRANDMA	ROBOT
VENGEFUL				A CYNICAL		
DEMONIC	ALGORITHMS	LOCALS	A SMALL-TOWN	WRITER	CONVICT	

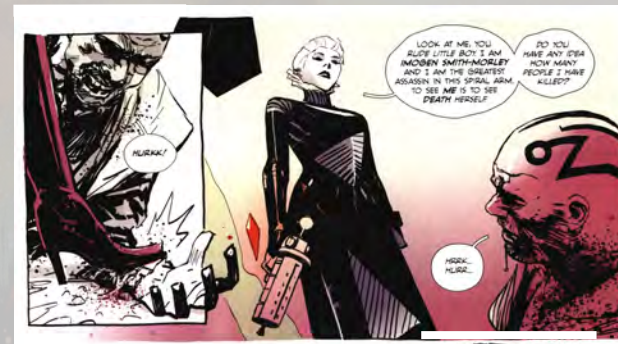
A new collection by British cartoonist TOM GAULD is always a cause for celebration. *Revenge of the Librarians* is especially welcome, with its hilarious riffs on books, writers, readers and, of course, librarians, including such ace gags as "Librarian Gang Tattoos" (Central Library Hoodlums represent!) Find this lovely Drawn & Quarterly release at your favorite LPL location!



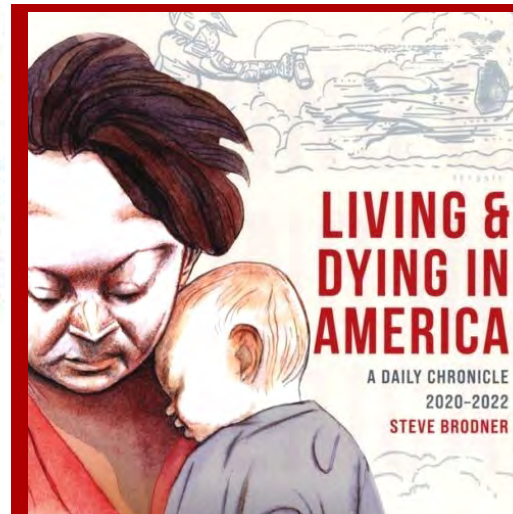
In a galaxy divided between seven great powers, the little people struggle on. Neha Nori Sood is one of them, a courier who, one day, walks into a big mess she didn't expect. Her client turns out to be, if not the deadliest assassin in space, the most polite. DECORUM is the star-spanning story of their continuing relationship, which grows in the fertile soil churned up by war between worlds, the clash of gods and grifters.



\*CENTRAL & VILLAGE\*



Writer Jonathan Hickman joins that crew of creators dedicated to a new form of science fiction comics. A syncretistic mosh pit of thematic and aesthetic influences, DECORUM is even more baroque than predecessors such as SAGA, THE ETHER or Hickman's own EAST OF WEST. Mike Huddleston's art is a revelation in both the visual and Biblical sense, a mixed media masterpiece that mines comics past to forge comics' future.



Fantagraphics is responsible for a disturbing duo of contemporary non-fiction comics. A thick brick of a book, *Living & Dying in America* is Steve Brodner's "Daily Chronicle" of the nation during 2020-2022. The majority of page-a-day entries are concerned with the Coronavirus pandemic. But the award-winning political portraitist also limns the BLM and MAGA movements, Trump's cavalcade of controversies, the 2020 election and its aftermath. Look under 973.933 B7851 at your favor-



ite LPL location. A work of "Graphic Journalism by Jess Ruliffson," *Invisible Wounds* uses comics to describe the experiences of veterans who served in America's 21st Century "forever wars" in the Middle East. Ruliffson's thick, expressive brushwork grants a homely solidity to the thoughts and memories of those men and women still fighting long after leaving war behind.



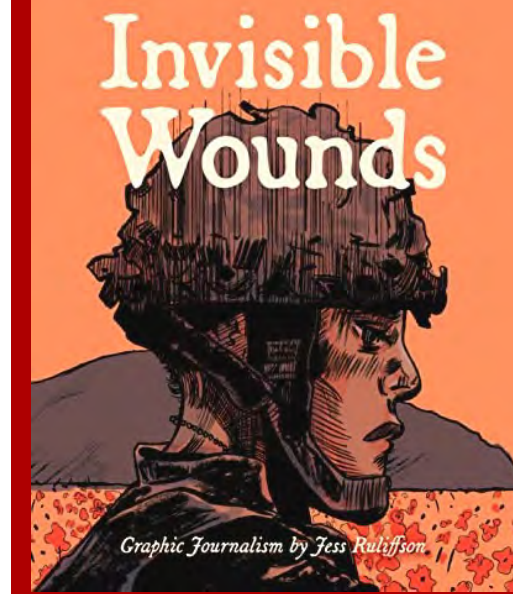
Two hardbacks from DC will delight film fans. *Superman '78* is based on the Christopher Reeves films. It takes place between the first and second movies. Brainiac discovers Earth is harboring a free range Kryptonian. That's a problem, one which gets bigger the more Superman tries to fix it. Could Earth's savior actually be Lex Luthor, as played by Gene Hackman? As bright and lively as the movie, *Superman '78* is a pleasure!

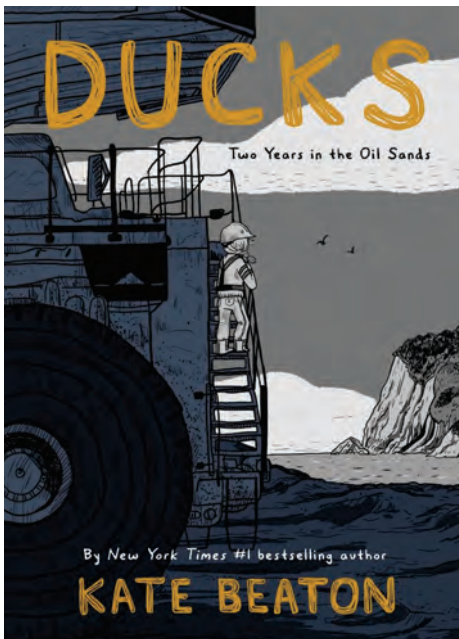
As noted, this is the "NEW EDITION" of *Marvel Year by Year: A Visual History*. It's the differences in editions that are interesting; for instance, before the *Black Panther* film made M'Baku an global icon, his status as the C-list villain Man-Ape wouldn't have rated that entry on page 129 (March 1969). Now he gets written up with all the



Building on the big hints dropped in the first two Tim Burton films, *Batman '89* finally introduces Billy Dee Williams as Two-Face. There's also a Robin who looks nothing like Chris O'Donnell. Written by the original screenwriter Sam Hamm, it's an exciting yet emotional tale of metropolitan menace that would have rocked on the big screen. Which is what the shadowy but clear-cut art by Joe Quinones deserves: a larger page size!

Human Torches, Angels and Black Widows filling the company's comics since 1939, when it was known as Timely. The post-war era of lovers and cowboys; the leathernecks and revenants of the Atlas age; the contemporary series starring Islamic Inhumans and savvy super-women— reel through the years in this lap-buster found at Central and Tates Creek!





In comics, as in other art forms, so much material comes out in a year that, frankly, making a Top 10 list seems somewhat arrogant. At the same time, it's tragic that two definite choices for such a list haven't received any notice from 741.5 until now. It took a while to read *Ducks* because it was so popular, it was months before I got a copy. The first long form work by Kate Beaton, the artist behind the literary satire *Hark! A Vagrant*, this graphic autobiography details her experiences working *Two Years in the Oil Sands of Western Canada*. Beaton's gift for rendering natural expression and body language exposes the individuality of people made cogs in a vast machine. She also kicks ass at drawing vast machines! Find this instant classic from Drawn & Quarterly at all LPL locations. Himself a study in mutually hostile contrasts, African-American punk cartoonist Casanova Frankenstein had to go all the way to Australia to find an artist messed up enough to draw the pix for his words. His collaboration with Glenn Pearce, *How to Make A Monster*, is another graphic autobiography. Hideously graphic, as is Frankenstein's hellish history of hitting puberty on the South Side of Chicago at the dawn of Reaganism. The cultural baggage of blackness adds a special flavor of ugliness to this memoir of teenage paranoia, available at Central, Eastside and Northside.



Comics' current Hardest Working Man in Show Business **James Tynion IV** and former indie sweetheart **Mariko (Skim) Tamaki** have been in charge of the main Batman titles for a couple of years now. The cast of new characters they've introduced to Gotham City get their own compilation with *Batman: Secret Files* (DC). Collecting the series of one-shots, we learn more about the young African-American hero, the Signal; watch in awe and horror as the Huntress fights off a brain-warping parasite as she tracks down the afflicted; get a glimpse of the troubled background of the teenage vigilante, Clownhunter; look a little too deep into the roiling mind of Peacekeeper-01; learn the origin of the new anarchist in town, Miracle Molly; and meet the secret guardian of the Green, the Gardener. Each character gets an artist



## MEANWHILE



that fits: **Christian Duacs's** sleek take on contemporary superheroics; **David (Stray Bullets) Lapham's** violent physicality; the mangafied exaggeration of **Rosi Kampe**; **Joshua Hixson's** shadowy, ink-splattered naturalism; **DaNi's** eye-catching mix of Kirby technodelia and the hyper-noir of **Miller and Sales**; and the Symbolist mutation of color and layout that **Christian (Blood Stained Teeth) Ward** brings to the Gardener's sad history of iconic villainess Poison Ivy. Watching the growth of **Chris Bachalo** as an artist is one of the many joys found in *Death: The Deluxe Edition*. This DC Black Label hardback compiles the Vertigo limited series starring Death, along with those issues of *The Sandman* that introduced the sister of Dream. *Death: The High Cost of Living* shows the major influence of **Bill Sienkiewicz** on the young **Bachalo**. That expressionistic scratchi-

ness disappears in *Death: The Time of Your Life* under the influence of **Mike Mignola** and especially the artist responsible for the last chapter, "Death in Venice", **P. Craig Russell**. Go to [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org) to reserve your copy of this lovely collection. Speaking of **Sienkiewicz**, the guy he helped make a Marvel mainstay has a new comp out. Continuing the saga of *The Midnight Mission*, Moon Knight has to deal with the destruction of his headquarters and the theft of his funds by the recrudescient psychopath Zodiac. It's the good maniac in a mask vs. the bad maniac in a mask in *Too Tough to Die*. An interlude in prison doing a favor for the ex-wife of Man Mountain Marko shows just how scary Marc Spector can be. **Alessandro Cappuccio's** moody, muscular art drops you right into the violence...and his Tigra? Rowrrrr!



Back issues of 741.5 are available at [lexpublib.org](http://lexpublib.org) under the COLLECTIONS tab!